

## MOSCOW DEPORTS TOURIST AS 'SPY'

U.S. Student Is Ousted as  
Soviet Assails Washington  
for Using Visitors

By SEYMOUR TOPPING

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MOSCOW, Aug. 11 — The

Soviet Union accused the United States today of using tourists as espionage agents and announced it was expelling a tourist immediately on spy charges.

The tourist, Robert Christner, a 27-year-old student from Sparks, Nev., was informed by Soviet authorities that he had been "convicted" of espionage. He was told at 4:30 P.M. to leave Moscow for Helsinki, Finland, on the 10 P.M. train.

Mr. Christner was accused of having made illegal topographical maps and having photographed railways and strategic sites.

### Student Denies Charge

"This is a completely unfounded accusation," said Mr. Christner, a graduate student at Georgetown University in Washington. He said he had taken photos and companion notes of railway depots but he insisted he had done so only in connection with a thesis for a master's degree he was writing on the development of Russian railways.

A Soviet statement published by Tass, the Government's official press agency, contained the charge that the United States was using tourists as spies. It was published as Soviet newspapers warned of the need for "vigilance" against United States espionage agents and as the date grows nearer for the highly publicized trial of Francis Gary Powers, pilot of the United States U-2 reconnaissance plane shot down over Soviet territory May 10. The trial is to start Aug. 17.

Travelers here have noted that the "vigilance campaign" has caused them to be subjected to close scrutiny by ordinary

Yesterday the Kremlin charged Col. Edwin M. Kirton, air attaché of the United States Embassy here, with improper intelligence activities and ordered him to leave the country. The United States Embassy has rejected allegations against Colonel Kirton.

### U. S. Aide Is Summoned

Leslie S. Brady, public affairs officer of the United States Embassy, was summoned to the Soviet Foreign Ministry this morning to hear the complaint against Mr. Christner. A prepared statement was read to him by L. M. Zamyatin, Deputy Chief of the American Section, at about same time the Moscow radio was broadcasting the text of the Soviet accusations.

Mr. Brady said Mr. Zamyatin had charged that "Christner made topographical maps on his trip through the Soviet Union, took photos of installations, concealed the documents in a special body-belt under his clothes, and disseminated American newspapers containing hostile statements against the Soviet Union."

Mr. Zamyatin said that "Soviet authorities have numerous other facts concerning espionage by other American tourists" and that "appropriate United States organizations have been sending in spies under the disguise of tourists."

The Soviet official said his Government "wished to call to the attention of the United States Embassy the inadmissibility of using tourists for concealing such acts in view of the noble purpose of tourism." His statement called on the United States "to halt such activities." He said that the Soviet Union would continue to extend full hospitality to United States tourists and that his Government hoped the United States would respond in a similar manner.

### Tass Details Charge

In giving details of the charge against Mr. Christner, Tass said he had photographed a military vessel in port at Baku on the Caspian Sea. The press agency noted that Mr. Christner "spoke" the Russian language well, having learned it in military school.

Mr. Christner, a tall, slim young man who was wearing spectacles and a sports shirt, said that the Soviet charges were "silly" and that he was flabbergasted by the whole affair.

He said he had taken photos everywhere openly and usually in the presence of Soviet tourist guides on visits to Uzhgorod, Lvov and Kiev in the Ukraine, Yalta and Sochi on the Black Sea and Baku and Stalingrad.

Mr. Christner said he had explained his interest in railways to Soviet guides and had asked permission to take photos. He said permission had been denied in only a few cases. As for hiding objects in a "special place in his clothes," Mr. Christner said he had worn

a money belt as a precaution against losing his valuables.

He said Soviet border authorities had raised no objections when he crossed into the Soviet Union from Hungary carrying two copies of The New York Herald Tribune and one of The New York Times. But he said the Russians later complained about his edition of The New York Times of last Sunday, which carried a cartoon critical of Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba.

Mr. Christner was in the restaurant of his hotel this afternoon when he was called to the office of Intourist, the Soviet tourist agency, and told:

"You have been convicted of espionage on Soviet territory and you are asked to leave the country."

Mr. Christner arrived in the Soviet Union on July 17 and was to have left tonight for

Leningrad by train. He had intended to leave the country via Helsinki on Aug. 14.

Mr. Christner was graduated from the University of Nevada in 1955. During his subsequent service in the army he attended the United States Army Language School at Monterey, Calif., where he studied Russian.

He traveled to the Soviet Union at his own expense after studying at the University of California at Berkeley and working for a time as a clerk in the Library of Congress. He plans to enter Georgetown University in the fall and to specialize in Russian studies.

He said that he had not received any kind of briefing from any United States official as to what pitfalls to avoid while touring the Soviet Union.

### Sister Scorns Soviet Charge

The sister of Robert C. Christner called the Soviet accusations "absolutely preposterous."

Reeda N. Christner, who lives in Sparks, Nev., with her mother, Mrs. Millie Thuem, has not seen her brother since he left Sparks last March to work in Washington.

In a telephone interview, she said Mr. Christner had been a researcher in the Slavic and Central European section of the Library of Congress and that he had translated Russian periodicals there.

Mias Christner, a 29-year-old secretary in the Nevada Bank of Commerce, said:

"They say he wore a belt up

der his clothes full of maps and films of military installations. That's absurd. He wrote me he had his wallet stolen twice recently—once in Washington and again in either Budapest or Moscow. I can't remember which. He was probably wearing a money belt because it was safer."

"We won't be happy until he's out," she said. "He must have stumbled upon something he wasn't supposed to. That's his luck—he's very curious."

She said Mr. Christner had left New York July 10 for Europe, had stopped in Paris, Vienna and Budapest and had then headed for the Soviet Union.

Mr. Christner's father, H. Reed Christner, is a paleontologist with the United States Geological Survey at Menlo Park, Calif.